

Mathematics Standards Public Comments

EXHIBIT #1

Date Submitted: September 11, 2017
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The "new" standards seen to be mostly the old Common Core standards without the Common Core label and with the Common Core numbers removed. Looks like there was some effort to fix the standards, but too many problems remain.

Standards should be clearly written, and, as much as possible, they should avoid jargon. Too much "Common Core" gibberish still here. Passages like the following could and should be rewritten:

"Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem."

I suspect that the adoption of Common Core math standards has really hurt SD students. It was very unfortunate that, at the same time CCSS were adopted, we scrapped the old testing system. It's impossible to correlate Smarter Balanced scores with the South Dakota STEP tests. Unfortunately, the ACT too was redesigned (and I assume re-scaled) with Common Core in mind.

I'd love to see a couple of South Dakota school districts administer the old STEP tests for a year or two just to see what's happened with overall math performance.

Also, our local school district has seen a major drop in the number of students taking Calculus at the high school level. Is this a state-wide trend? If so, is it CCSS-related?